



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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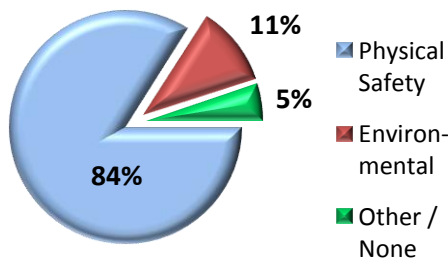
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## California's Abandoned Mine Lands Program Fact Sheet The Abandoned Mine Lands Unit

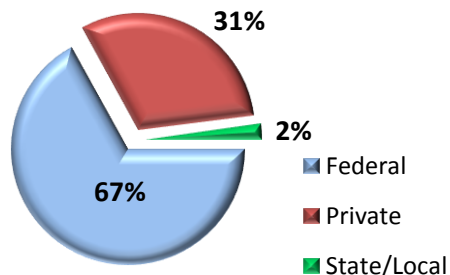
• The Department of Conservation's Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU) implements a field program to inventory abandoned mines, provide a preliminary assessment of any hazards observed, and remediate hazardous sites to preserve and protect human life and safety and any associated wildlife and cultural values (see our website at [www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned\\_mine\\_land](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land)).

• The AMLU estimates that approximately **47,000** abandoned mine sites containing **165,000** mine features\* exist statewide, **39,400** (84%) sites have physical hazards (more than **62,000** features are hazardous openings), and 67% of abandoned mine sites are on federal land.

**AML Hazard Type**



**AML Ownership**



\* A feature is a single human-made object or disturbance associated with mining, such as a shaft or adit (vertical or horizontal opening), tailings, machinery and facilities. A mine can be comprised of one or more features.

• Every year, someone is hurt or killed in an accident on abandoned mine lands. Abandoned mines can also be sources of mercury

contamination and other environmental hazards. The AMLU's "**Stay Out - Stay Alive!**" message is part of a national public awareness campaign to warn children and adults about the dangers of exploring and playing near abandoned mines. To report an abandoned mine in California, call the AMLU hotline at **1-877-OLD-MINE**.

• The AMLU has completed numerous site inventories and remediation projects in California (see map, page 2).

• Inventories: More than **2,800** sites and **25,000** features since 1997.

• Remediations: More than **600** hazardous features since 2002.

• The AMLU also convenes the AML Forum, a quarterly venue for the public and agencies to discuss abandoned mine issues (see [www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned\\_mine\\_land/amlu\\_forum.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land/amlu_forum.htm)).



A vehicle is removed from an abandoned mine shaft, Imperial County (photos courtesy of Yuma Fire Department and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)).



Vehicle in abandoned mine shaft, Ridgecrest Resource Area, Kern County (photo courtesy of BLM).



Photos before and after the AMLU helped to install a cupola over a 1,600-foot-deep abandoned mine next to Highway 395, Kern County (AMLU photo library).

*The Department of Conservation's mission is to balance today's needs with tomorrow's challenges and foster intelligent, sustainable, and efficient use of California's energy, land, and mineral resources.*

(July 2009)

